UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/303
13 April 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement dated 9 April 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the exacerbation of the situation on the Afghan-Tajik border (see annex).

I request you to have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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Annex

Statement dated 9 April 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

In recent days the attacks by Tajik opposition fighters against the Russian border guards who are guarding the Tajik-Afghan border in accordance with bilateral Russian-Tajik agreements and multilateral agreements concluded by the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States have increased in frequency and have become particularly audacious and provocative.

Thus, following the shelling of a column of border guards in the Kalaikhumb sector, on the subject of which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation made a statement on 7 April 1995, further shellings and attacks have taken place in April, causing casualties among the Russian, Kazakh and Tajik border troops.

These armed actions constitute a gross and blatant violation by the Tajik opposition of the provisions of the Agreement on a Temporary Cease-Fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts, which was concluded between it and the Republic of Tajikistan on 17 September 1994. The actions were carried out at a time when - as became clear during the contacts which representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had on 4 and 5 April in Moscow with Mr. A. Turajonzodah, the head of the opposition delegation, and Mr. R. Píriz Ballón, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tajikistan - the preparations for the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks have entered the phase of the adoption of final decisions and the possibility has emerged of holding the talks in Moscow in the near future. Apparently, after considering the results of the contacts, the opposition leaders came to the conclusion that they would not be able to continue to avoid a statement on a significant extension of the cease-fire, which United Nations representatives, the observer States in the inter-Tajik negotiating process and other countries concerned are urging them to make, by resorting to delaying tactics, unfounded accusations against the Russian border guards and an escalation of the demands that they are putting forward as conditions for an agreement to return to the negotiating table.

To all appearances, the plans of the opposition ruling clique involve unleashing wide-scale armed actions during the spring and summer period and it is difficult for it to abandon those plans for the sake of an intensive search for political compromises.

It is evident that the opposition's hopes of achieving its goals through confrontation by force are short-sighted and doomed to failure. Military provocations can only lead to a breakdown of the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks and complicate the dialogue aimed at achieving national agreement and reconciliation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation calls upon the Tajik opposition leaders to stop their dangerous provocations immediately, go to the negotiating table with representatives of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and conduct the negotiations in a constructive spirit. As an

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observer State, Russia is prepared to provide all necessary assistance to the inter-Tajik negotiating process.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation strongly protests to the central and local authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, with whose evident connivance Tajik opposition fighters made attacks against Russian border guards from Afghan territory. The special characteristics of the internal political situation in Afghanistan do not release either the Kabul Government or the military and political groupings which control districts in which Tajik opposition detachments are operating from responsibility for provocations in the border areas.